

# Montana Laboratory Sentinel



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau  
800-821-7284 [www.lab.hhs.mt.gov](http://www.lab.hhs.mt.gov)

12/17/2010

## Description of Laboratory Data Exchange Projects

December 2010

The Laboratory Services Bureau has received funding to contract for services and to hire a Laboratory Data Systems Coordinator. Various electronic messaging and data exchange projects are being undertaken.

1. Public Health Laboratory Interoperability Project (PHLIP). The Montana Public Health Laboratory will incorporate a reporting system that will allow electronically transmitted messages of Influenza laboratory test results from the Harvest Laboratory Information System (LIS) to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Influenza Branch.
2. Results of Reportable Conditions into MIDIS—The MTPHL and clinical laboratories will electronically transmit test results of reportable conditions from their respective LIS to the DPHHS Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS).
3. MTPHL results to clinical laboratories—MTPHL will electronically transmit test results to clinical laboratories' information systems.

Three large hospital laboratories, Billings Clinic, Missoula Community Medical Center, and Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, have agreed to be pilot sites that will test data exchange with DPHHS MIDIS and the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL). As funding and resources allow, these projects will be expanded to additional clinical laboratories, targeting the larger laboratories that are more likely to have reportable conditions or use the MTPHL as a reference laboratory.

## Influenza CPT Code Changes

New Influenza CPT code changes will go into effect in 2011. The MTPHL will be using the following CPT codes for Influenza testing for specimens received after January 1, 2011. The Centers for Disease Control continues to provide financial support for testing reagents, so we are again able to offer a reduced fee for the 2010-2011 Influenza season.

Order	Previous CPT code	New CPT Code	Fee
Influenza A & B by PCR	87798	87502	\$50.00
Influenza A Subtyping by PCR	87801	87503	\$30.00

The recently compiled 2009 state antibiogram has been posted in the following location: <http://mara.mt.gov/mara-news.shtml>. Vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* is still being reported by some facilities. This is an unusual event that requires confirmation by referral to MTPHL (and subsequent referral to CDC). Please call MTPHL at 800-821-7284 with questions regarding reporting and referral of this isolate.

The cumulative state antibiogram is presented to provide Montana clinicians and public health professionals with data to track antimicrobial susceptibility patterns, raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance, and to identify opportunities to reduce inappropriate antimicrobial usage.

2010 antibiograms will be requested from participating facilities in January 2011.

The current issue of the **Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Weekly Update** for MMWR reporting weeks 45, 46 and 47 contains information about:

- Norovirus activity is increasing!
- Food preparation for large groups
- Continuing pertussis activity in W. Montana
- Seasonal influenza updates

To read the update visit:

[http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/CDWeeklyUpdateWk45\\_46\\_47.pdf](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/CDWeeklyUpdateWk45_46_47.pdf)

For more surveillance information, visit:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/>

